

A New Station for *Nymphaea tuberosa* Paine in Southern New Jersey

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On June 19, 1926, the writer while collecting aquatics along the Main Branch of Newton Creek, at Collingswood, Camden County, noticed what appeared to be a large flowered and broad leaved *Nymphaea odorata* Ait. growing in the stream. As *Nymphaea odorata* does not appear to be recorded from this creek or its branches, the find seemed to be interesting. After floundering in the murky water, I was successful in pulling up several flowering specimens with good root-stocks. Careful examination showed that, growing at short intervals along the thickened rhizome, were small tubers which were readily detached and floated to the surface, and which when planted in mud, developed into new plants. Another surprising thing about the plant was the *green* under surface of the leaves!

When specimens were collected and compared with herbarium material at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the plant appeared to be identical with *Nymphaea tuberosa* Paine. Since the occurrence of this species in the Philadelphia local area is rare, having been recorded only from three stations in southern New Jersey,¹ the plant was sent to Gray Herbarium to be checked by Messrs. C. A. Weatherby and J. M. Fogg, Jr., who together agreed that without doubt it was *Nymphaea tuberosa*.

This past summer another trip was made to the locality in order to note the distribution of the plant in the stream and, most important of all, to see whether or not this water-lily was indigenous there. Inquiry was made among several natives of Collingswood and it was ascertained that about ten years ago, an old inhabitant had received a rhizome of this species and had thrown it into the stream. The single specimen thus introduced has propagated itself, undoubtedly by seed and the small tubers, into the numerous colonies which are now present in the creek.

¹ "Known definitely only from Pocataquissing Creek and from near Trenton, both in Mercer Co., and from Cape May Co., N. J."—Norman Taylor, *Flora of Vicinity of New York*—Mem. N. Y. Bot. Gard. Vol. V.

As a further step in the investigation, the writer questioned the person from whom the original rhizome was received. He recollected having gotten some plants about twelve years ago for his private pool, from Pohatcong Lake, Tuckerton, New Jersey. In order to verify the plant's occurrence there, a trip was made by me to this lake. Unfortunately, due to the lateness of the season, there were no flowers left in bloom, except a small colony of *Nymphaea odorata* in a sheltered lagoon; however, the under surfaces of hundreds of leaves were examined. Most of them were the typical red color of *Nymphaea odorata*, but quite a number of colonies had leaves with green under surfaces, similar to the specimens from Collingswood. This latter fact, together with the presence of what appeared to be small tubers on the rhizomes, seemed to indicate that *Nymphaea tuberosa* Paine does occur in the lake. This would make the fifth station in southern New Jersey. However, until flowering specimens with rhizomes have been collected, and a more extensive study has been made, nothing with certainty can be said regarding its occurrence in Pohatcong Lake.

This article was written principally to record the presence of this rare species of water-lily at Collingswood, and also to give the history of its introduction in order to prevent confusion among botanists regarding its occurrence there, since in the future the local account of its introduction might be lost.

HERBARIUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA